



# Unexpected news



29 2 2

## Chapter 1 by Danny Rerucha

I looked up just in time to see my her begin to speak. She dictated each word with careful, calculated movements of her mouth, but no sound came out. All at once the buzzing of nature and the playful commotion of youth were silenced. The world stood still and rested on the tip of her tongue, teetering and on the brink of collapse. I did my best to read the complex motions of her lips, but my attempts proved fruitless. Seconds dragged on for hours. Her mouth became deathly still as she finished speaking. She held her breath waiting for my response. Everything was still. Her lower lip began to tremble. A tear escaped her eye, and sound returned to me like an earthquake. I couldn't think. My ears were ringing, and the world around me was spinning.

## Chapter 2 by intellikat



"Well..." I cleared my throat. "I've listened to every word you've said, very carefully, and I'd have to admit you make a good point. You have indeed grown a bit fatter over the past month and it might be advisable to reconsider your dietary habits."

Her eyes grew wide and fluttered ever so slightly, the wind playfully tossing wisps of her hair upwards. A small dog ran across the background of our scene and a red balloon ascended into the sky.

"Mind you, I didn't say you were FAT, but yes, I imagine that you could lose a few pounds... IF indeed that is what you want..." I cleared my throat again. "Mom."

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